

Measles

Sample: Notice to local physicians that measles has occurred in the community

(Date)

To: Physicians:

From: Local Health Officer

There has been at least one case of measles (also known as rubeola, red measles, or ten-day measles) confirmed in the _____ (school or other facility) in our area. Measles cases are rare in California but they do occur, usually in adolescents and adults. This is of concern because the risk of encephalitis and death appears to be higher when measles occurs in an older teenager or adult.

Therefore, the health department is undertaking an outbreak control program in affected schools (or other facility). Some pupils' families may call your office for rash illness evaluation or for requesting records of prior immunization or requesting immunization. If evaluation determines that the illness is measles, then the child or staff must be excluded from school until you clear them for return to school.

Many children have had the recommended two doses of combined measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine by the time they have entered kindergarten, but pupils with exemptions to immunization or with legally inadequate school measles immunization records are being given notice that they are being excluded from school attendance temporarily.

Usually a pupil **may avoid exclusion or may be readmitted** by doing ONE of the following:

- Present to the school a record of two measles immunizations received after the first birthday, including the month and year that the vaccine was given. For immunization given during the month of the first birthday the exact day is needed.
- Present to the school a record indicating a history of having had measles disease or a record of a blood test showing immunity to measles.
- Obtain a measles vaccination and bring a record of this immunization to school

Thank you for your help in this effort. If there are questions regarding this matter, please contact _____ (name).